

harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

- (vii) CGWA has notified 20 severely over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. The CGWA is also regulating development of ground water by new industries/ projects in all over-exploited/critical areas.

Demand and supply of water

1480. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for water in the country is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the availability of demand and supply of water in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 billion cubic metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM out of which 690 billion cubic metre is surface water and 433 BCM is replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in its report has projected the estimates of total annual water requirements for various scenarios. The estimated water requirements for the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 are 710 BCM, 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively under high demand scenario.

(c) In respect of Water Quality, the National Water Policy, 2002 provides as under:

"14.1 Both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. A phased programme should be undertaken for improvements in water quality.

14.2 Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams.

14.3 Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology and social considerations.

14.4 Principle of 'polluter pays' should be followed in management of polluted water.

14.5 Necessary legislation is to be made for preservation of existing water bodies by preventing encroachment and deterioration of water quality."

The Ministry of Environment & Forests in implementing the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) to improve the water quality of rivers and lakes respectively of the country. The Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) has also been constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a view to direct agencies to standardize water quality monitoring methods, ensure proper treatment of wastewater to restore the water quality of surface and ground waters, take up R&D activity related to water quality management and promote recycling and reuse of treated wastewater.

Contracts for maintenance of rivers to private consortia

1481. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance contracts of many rivers in the country have been handed over to private consortia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) State Governments have not informed about the handing over of the maintenance contracts of any of the rivers in the country to private consortia.

(b) Does not arise.